

**Interview with Fred Middleton, Program Director,
New York Services Network
October 19, 2010**

Question RFM: Where do your referrals come from? What are the criteria required for admission?

Mr. Middleton stated that NYSN gets most of their clients from $\frac{3}{4}$ houses; **Richmond House, Apex, Miracle House**, and others he could not remember at the moment. Additionally, clients are referred by **Parole, Probation, NAADAP, Brooklyn TASC and treatment courts**. He also stated that the most of the clients are already residing in the sober homes. I asked him to explain the procedure and he offered the following information:

NYSN has a contract/agreement with **#1 Marketing/Apex**. His understanding is that they go directly to the shelters located around NYC and offer the residents, those with a substance abuse problem, other services. Once they are in the sober home, they are referred to NYSN. They are evaluated at the sober home, (credential of evaluator is unknown) and then referred to NYSN. They are screened again for acceptance into treatment, and their treatment schedules are based on their individual needs and the severity of their addiction. They can be offered services such as psychiatric evaluation and referrals to medical services, if necessary as well.

Question: Is participation in treatment a condition to maintain housing?

Mr. Middleton said, "I don't know, that's the house."

Question: Do you communicate with the house regarding the clients? What information is exchanged and why is it necessary?

Mr. Middleton stated they communicate by phone, and it is usually about attendance or toxicology results. He also stated clients sign releases allowing NYSN to communicate with the houses.

Question: How is this exchange of information recorded in the client's chart?

Mr. Middleton said, "It's not; the charts would be too voluminous."

Question: If a problem occurs at the house, are you notified? Does it affect treatment status? Vice/Versa? Who is the contact person at the house?

Mr. Middleton said, "They don't tell us." As far as he knows, it would not affect treatment status. The house manager is the contact person.

Question: What happens when a client is administratively discharged? Is the house notified? If so why?

The house is notified because they are concerned with client's attendance.

Reviewer's note: Mr. Middleton voiced his concern regarding the way $\frac{3}{4}$ houses are run. He does not feel residents are treated fairly. He stated he did not know exactly who owned the houses but they are their primary referral source. He also stated that NYSN was considering opening their own house, which he feels could offer better services to its residents. Mr. Middleton denied any knowledge of the actual functioning of the houses.

There was no evidence of correspondence between Parole, Probation and the treatment courts noted in any of the charts we reviewed.